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OLC 72-0711
14 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: OSS Records

1. Mr. Robert M. Blum, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, visited Headquarters as a followup to Chairman J. W. Fulbright's letter request of 16 May concerning records of OSS missions in China and Indochina during the second World War and met with [redacted] Deputy for Information Processing, ISD, and [redacted] After reviewing with Mr. Blum the inherent limitations in the files available due to the nature of OSS reports and the scattering of files to State, Archives, and Army, as well as SSU, on the disbandment of OSS, it was agreed that we would search out such reports as may be available in the SSU files relating to the specific areas of interest outlined by Mr. Blum and make them available for his review here at Headquarters. Mr. Blum appeared quite satisfied with this arrangement.

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2. Mr. Blum identified his chief areas of interest as team reports emanating from the north as well as team reports from Hanoi in the south; reports of meetings or contacts with Ho Chi Minh and listing of supplies or equipment furnished to Ho; reports of the mission to Yunnan (which received some publicity early this year on TV); reports from Hanoi filed by Archimedes Patti and Captain Frank M. White and reports from Saigon filed by Lt. Col. Peter Dewey and Captain White. He is particularly interested in any photographs that might be contained with the reports.

3. Mr. Blum was advised that we would put a man on the job of searching out such reports from unsegregated files and that [redacted] would call him in a week or so to give Mr. Blum a progress report on the success of our efforts. Mr. Blum said this would be fine that he was not in any particular rush but that he would need to follow through in these areas due to the personal interest that has developed on the part of Chairman Fulbright.

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4. Mr. Blum is apparently quite knowledgeable about the activities of the various missions operating in China and Indochina during the last year of the war and the year immediately following World War II. He noted, in passing, that he hoped that we would be able to trace the reporting procedures followed by persons such as Major Patti in reporting from Hanoi to determine what disposition had been made of such reports and to determine whether the information contained therein had ever been forwarded to Washington. He also noted that the Committee had learned from testimony that it has received that OSS was an ad hoc organization insofar as reporting methods and procedures utilized in overseas areas and realized that the tracing of reports might be extremely difficult. He mentioned he had met also with STATINTL [redacted] a former Agency employee whose book "OSS - The Secret History of America's First Central Intelligence Agency" will be published later in the year.

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5. [redacted] office will identify and gather together the material suggested by Mr. Blum's outline. It will then be necessary to review the material prior to review by Mr. Blum.

STATINTL [redacted]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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